

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8 of page 3 as follows:

Figure 5 is a partially-sectioned view of a portion of a woven braid, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention; [[and]]

Please insert a new paragraph immediately after line 9 of page 3 as follows:

Figure 5A is a partially-sectioned view of a portion of a woven braid, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention; and

Please insert the following paragraphs immediately after the paragraph that ends at line 16, page 10 as follows:

Figure 5A illustrates an embodiment of a reinforcing braid 52 that can be formed, as described above with respect to Figure 4, by weaving together two or more continuous wires 58 and 60 over a mandrel 41. The braid 52 shown in Figure 5A has a proximal portion 54 in which each of the continuous wires 58, 60 have a proximal diameter D1 and a distal portion 56 in which each of the continuous wires 58, 60 have a distal diameter D2.

In the illustrated embodiment, the distal diameter D2 is less than the proximal diameter D1. In some embodiments, the distal diameter D2 can be about one-third less than the proximal diameter D1. In a particular embodiment, the proximal diameter D1 can be about 1.5 millimeters, while the distal diameter D2 is about 1.0 millimeters. The use of diameter is illustrative of a round wire, although other shaped wire can be used with commensurate change in cross-sectional area.